

**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATION (GRADES 5-9)**

**I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. A baccalaureate degree from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from a college or university having a teacher education program approved by the state education agency in states other than Missouri;
- B. Must have recommendation of designated official for teacher education in the college or university;
- C. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale overall and in the major area of study;
- D. Must complete the content knowledge or specialty area test designated by the State Board of Education with a score equal to or greater than the Missouri qualifying score;
- E. Completion of professional requirements, as determined by the recommending college or university, which may exceed these minimum requirements; and
- F. Individuals who completed their teacher education program outside of the United States shall provide documentation of completion of course work in the following:
  - 1. English Composition, two (2) courses, each a minimum of two (2) semester hours;
  - 2. U.S. History, three (3) semester hours; and
  - 3. U.S. Government, three (3) semester hours.

**II. PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** A minimum of fifty-three (53) semester hours in professional education. Competency must be demonstrated in each area listed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution.

**A. Foundations for Teaching** (Minimum requirement of twelve (12) semester hours):

- 1. **The Pupil/Society**—A minimum of eight (8) semester hours with knowledge acquired and competency developed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution in the following areas:
  - a. Personalized Teaching Strategies;
  - b. \*Adolescent Psychology or Psychology of the Middle Level Child (physical, mental development which includes substance abuse, sexuality and peer pressure concerns);
  - c. Psychology of Learning;
  - d. \*Psychology and/or Education of the Exceptional Child (including the Gifted);
  - e. Techniques of Classroom Management; and
  - f. Tests and Measurements; and
- 2. **The School/Society**—A minimum of four (4) semester hours with knowledge acquired and competency developed to the satisfaction of the teacher preparation institution in the following areas, including multi-cultural aspects:
  - a. \*Middle School Philosophy, Organization, and Curriculum;
  - b. Legal Foundations of Education;
  - c. Philosophical Foundations of Education; and
  - d. Sociological Foundations of Education; and

**B. Middle School Concentration** (Minimum requirement of thirty-one (31) semester hours):

- 1. **Middle School Methods** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):
  - a. Methods of Teaching Reading (minimum of five (5) semester hours to include one (1) course in Techniques of Teaching Reading in the Content Fields);
  - b. \*Middle Level Curriculum and Instruction;
  - c. Teaching of Writing; and
  - d. \*Methods of Teaching Specialty Area; and
- 2. **Subject Area Requirements** (Minimum requirement of twenty-one (21) semester hours):

*\*Denotes minimum requirement of two (2) semester hours.*

Subject area certification in grades 5-9 will be granted upon the basis of a minimum of twenty-one (21) semester hours with appropriate distribution as determined by the teacher preparation institution and/or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in one (1) of the following areas:

- a. Agricultural Education 5-9;
- b. Business Education 5-9;
- c. Family and Consumer Science 5-9;
- d. Industrial Technology 5-9;
- e. Language Arts 5-9;
- f. Mathematics 5-9;
- g. Science 5-9;
- h. Social Science 5-9; and
- i. Speech/Theatre 5-9; and

**C. Clinical Experience** (Minimum requirement of ten (10) semester hours):

A minimum of two (2) semester hours of field experience prior to student teaching and a minimum of eight (8) semester hours of student teaching in grades 5-9 is required. Teachers meeting requirements for Early Childhood, Elementary, or Secondary certification must complete a practicum with middle level students.

This practicum may be integrated within appropriate required courses.